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No. 82-867

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1982

FAITH CENTER, INC.,

Petitioner,

vs.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION,

Respondent.

BRIEF OF NEW MOUNT PLEASANT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, NEW STAR OF BETHLEHEM AND APPLIED RELIGION CENTER, AMICI CURIAE, IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT.

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Interest of Amici.

The New Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church and the New Star of Bethlehem, both of Los Angeles, California, and the Applied Religion Center, Burbank, California, are each nonprofit religious organizations incorporated under the laws of the State of California. They have received the consent of the parties to the case to the filing of this brief, and copies of letters containing that consent are filed with the Clerk of the Court contemporaneously with this brief.

As religious organizations, the amici are concerned with the scope of the protection the First Amendment's religion

clauses afford against governmental intrusions into internal church affairs. Moreover, as comparatively small religious groups, they are concerned that means of religious communication remain as open as possible. This case — in which the Federal Communications Commission has dismissed a church's television license renewal application because it did not comply with broad discovery orders to divulge information about internal church matters — implicates both those concerns.

In addition, it should be noted that the New Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, an inner-city church in Los Angeles, California, has on several occasions received free television time from Faith Center, Inc. to air its views and concerns to an audience it would otherwise be unable to reach.

Brief.

The amici join and adopt the amicus curiae brief already filed in this case by the Church of Scientology of California, Inc. *See* R. Stern & E. Gressman, *Supreme Court Practice* 728 (5th ed. 1978).

Conclusion.

For the reasons set forth in that brief, a writ of certiorari should issue to review the judgment and opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Dated: January 25, 1983.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL KREINER,

Counsel of Record for Amici.